THIS IS A STORY FROM BACK WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WAI (YAY)
WAI
WAI
ABOUT HALF A YEAR REMAINED BEFORE MY COMFORTABLE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE CAME TO AN END.
HALTING THE PROGRESS OF THE CALENDAR OR OTHERWISE STOPPING THE NEEDLE OF TIME WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A MERE MIDDLE SCHOOLER.
RAINY DAY
BASHA
BASHA (SPLASH)
WAI
WAI
WAI
HEY, KYON.
YOU LOOK TIRED. NOT ENOUGH SLEEP?

Rainy Day
IT WAS DURING THE BEGINNING TO THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, OF OUR THIRD AND LAST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HEY, SASAKI-SAN.
TA-(SMACK)
TA
YOU GUYS SEEM TO BE PRETTY CLOSE EVER SINCE THE SECOND SEMESTER STARTED.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN OVER THE SUMMER TO BRING YOU TOGETHER?

THAT WAS OKA-MOTO.
YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR GUIDANCE COUNS-ELING FORMS YET, HAVE YOU?
I GOT THEM FROM THE TEACHER, SO FILL THEM OUT WHEN WE GET BACK.
IGNORE HIM.
YOU TWO, THERE!
GUIDANCE COUNS-ELING, EH?
WHAT'RE YOUR PLANS, KYON?
I GUESS HER EYES WERE BAD
MU (HMM)
SHE WAS OUR GROUP LEADER.
AND AS USUAL, SHE SEEMED TOTALLY UNAWARE OF HER GOOD LOOKS.

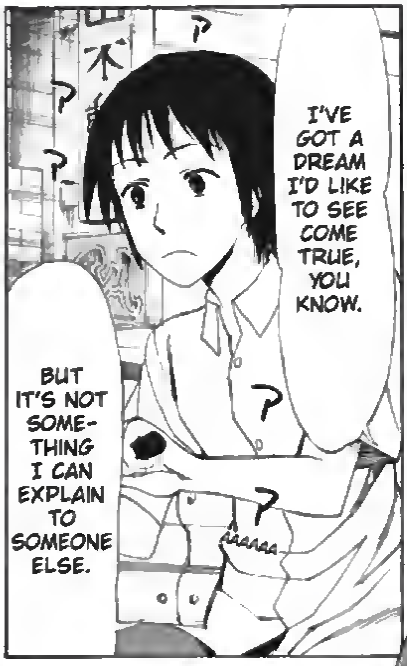
WITH YOUR GRADES, YOU'LL GO TO ONE OF THOSE PREP SCHOOLS FOR SMART KIDS, RIGHT?
I GUESS I'LL JUST TRY TO SNEAK INTO SOMEWHERE CLOSE.
HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT SEEMS LIKE KUNIKIDA-KUN'S DECIDED WHERE HE WANTS TO GO.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THE POSSI-BILITY.
SO HE WANTS TO GO WHERE THEY'RE GOING.
EVIDENTLY HE HAS A PARTIC-ULAR PERSON IN MIND.
...SO I'M SURE HE'LL GET INTO A FAMOUS SCHOOL.
WELL, HE'S A PRETTY SMART GUY TOO...

MIIIN
MIIIN
MIIIN (BZZZZ)
HEE HEE.
I JUST WANT TO STAY HERE AT THE POOL-SIDE, LOOKING UP AT THE BLUE SKY.

BASHA (SPLASH)
BASHA
I'M KIND OF SICK OF IT.
SUMMER VACATION ONLY JUST ENDED, AND WE ALREADY HAVE TO START THINKING SIX MONTHS AHEAD.
WAI
WAI (CHATTER)

WAI
YOU CAN'T STOP TIME.
IT'S A NON-REVERSIBLE PROCESS, SO OUR POSITIONS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING.
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS HAPPEN, YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP WALKING.
WAI
WAI

BASHA
GOOD GRIEF.
THAT WON'T DO, KYON.
BASHA


I'VE GOT A DREAM I'D LIKE TO SEE COME TRUE, YOU KNOW.
BUT IT'S NOT SOME-THING I CAN EXPLAIN TO SOMEONE ELSE.

SHAAA (FWISSSHHH)
SO WHAT DREAM ARE YOU THINKING OF, TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO?
DREAMS, HUH?

PO (PLIP)
PO
PO
MM...

AFTER ALL, I THINK HOPES AND DREAMS ...
...ARE MORE SOMETHING YOU THINK ABOUT THAN THEY ARE SOMETHING YOU TELL OTHER PEOPLE.
AAA

ZAAAAA (HISSSSHHHHH)
THIS IS NO GOOD, KYON.
LET'S FIND SOMEWHERE TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN.
GEEZ.
WHAT ARE YOU, A RAIN MAN?
DIDN'T IT RAIN LAST TIME ON OUR WAY TO CRAM SCHOOL TOO?
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT!
YOU'RE JUST AS BAD!

SO MUCH FOR SWIM CLASS BEING SO REFRESHING, HUH?
AAA
...BUT IF I KEEP GETTING SOAKED LIKE THIS, THAT MIGHT CHANGE.

ザアアア

GENETICALLY I AM 100% FEMALE, AFTER ALL.
EVEN I CAN'T JUST PRETEND I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
I CAN'T IMAGINE THERE'S ANYTHING TO BE GAINED LOOKING AT MY MEAGER ASSETS, ANYWAY.
"GOOD GRIEF," INDEED.
AT THE RAIN, AND AT MYSELF AS WELL.
GOOD THING... IT'S SUMMER.
YOUR CLOTHES WILL DRY FAST.
IT WAS A COMPLETELY POINTLESS THING TO SAY.
COULDN'T I HAVE COME UP WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE WITTIER?

GOOD GRIEF...
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I DON'T REMEMBER HOW LATE WE WERE TO CRAM SCHOOL THAT DAY.
BUT I CAN SAY THIS MUCH.
SAAA
SAA (FSHW)
THE PHRASE THAT BECAME SUCH A HABIT OF MINE ONCE I ENTERED NORTH HIGH AND MET HARUHI CAME FROM THIS MOMENT WITH SASAKI.
I REMEMBER ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT MY MEMORIES ARE A TOTAL MESS.
BUT THAT'S THE DAY I STARTED SAYING "GOOD GRIEF."
THAT MUCH I KNOW FOR SURE.

Rainy Day : END

THANK YOU FOR READING!

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

20

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